

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 and 23-30 are pending. Claims 1-17 and 23-30 are amended. Claims 18-22 have been canceled. No new matter has been introduced. Reexamination and reconsideration of the present application are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action dated October 3, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Asay et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,903,882 (hereinafter Asay). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections in view of the claims as amended.

Independent claim 1, as amended now recites:

A method for controlling access to credential information, the method comprising:
requesting, by a delegate with a delegation from a delegator, a service from a relying party;
*determining a credential requirement based on a type of the service requested;
requesting, by the relying party based on the determined credential requirement and the delegation, credential information from a delegate credential service provider;*
sending, by the delegate credential service provider, the credential information to the relying party;
generating, by the relying party, a service response according to the credential information received from the delegate credential service provider; and
sending the service response to the delegate.

The Asay reference does not disclose, teach, or suggest the method specified in independent claim 1, as amended. Unlike the method specified in claim 1, as amended, Asay does not teach “*determining a credential requirement based on a type of the service requested*” or “*requesting, by the relying party based on the determined credential requirement and the delegation, credential information from a delegate credential service provider.*”

Instead, Asay is directed to a digital certificate management system, (Asay; Col. 1, lines 5-10) Asay discloses certifying the validity and authenticity of a user's credentials which include primary and secondary digital certificates. (Asay; Col. 4, lines 28-38 and Col. 5, lines 1-6) A relying party evaluates a user's digital certificates after a transaction is requested and thereafter

determines whether additional assurance of the user's credentials is required, which is distinct from *"requesting, by the relying party based on the determined credential requirement and the delegation, credential information from a delegate credential service provider."* Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submits that independent claim 1, as amended distinguishes over the Asay reference.

Independent claims 8, 12, 16, 23, and 27, as amended all recite limitations similar to those in independent claim 1, as amended. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submits that independent claims 8, 12, 16, 23, and 27, distinguish over Asay for reasons similar to those set forth above with respect to independent claim 1, as amended.

Claims 2-7, 9-11, 13-15, 17, 24-26, and 28-30 depend from independent claims 1, 8, 12, 16, 23, and 27, as amended, respectively. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 2-7, 9-11, 13-15, 17, 24-26, and 28-30 all distinguish over Asay for the same reasons discussed above with respect to independent claims 1, 8, 12, 16, 23, and 27, as amended, respectively.

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Applicants believe that the claims are in condition for allowance. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (213) 488-7100 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance should the Examiner believe that such a telephone conference call would advance prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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